in prices. However, prices of oil in the international market are highly volatile and are subject to wide fluctuation. The Oil prices trend in the international prices has an impact on our import bill and the domestic prices.

Price of Petro Products in India and Neighbouring Countries

3040. SHRI RAMCHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a large difference in the prices of petroleum products between India and neighbouring countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) The prices of major petroleum products in India and neighbouring countries collected from the respective market sources by the Oil Coordination Committee, as on 07-4-2000, are as under :

Country	LPG		MS		ATF		Diesel		Kerosene	
	(Rs. /kg)	%	(Rs./Lr.)	%	(Rs./Lr.)	%	(Rs./Lr.)	%	(Rs./Lr.)	%
Pakistan	15.97	115	24.80	95	9.40	55	10.76	77	9.46	173
Bangla-desh	17.06	123	17.91	69	13.78	80	11.05	79	11.05	202
Sri Lanka	16.62	120	29.60	114	12.10	70.	12.73	91	9.12	167
India (N.Delhi)	13.84	100	26.07	100	17.20	100	14.04	100	5.46	100

Opening of Retail Outlets of MS/HSD in Punjab

3041. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA :

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has requested the Central Government to open retail outlets of MS/HSD at focal points set up by State Government at various locations in the State;

(b) if so, the focal points identified for the purpose; and

(c) by when the outlets are likely to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) to (c) Government of Punjab has requested for setting up facilities for petrol/diesel outlets and LPG distributorships at the different focal points all over the State of Punjab. The locations found economically viable will be included in the Marketing Plan and allotted through the normal selection procedure of advertisement of the locations and selection through the Dealer Selection Board or merit on the basis of interview. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Ancillary Plant to Produce Benzene

3042. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any Plan to install any ancillary plant to produce Benzene produced by cracking naphtha, being produced by BRPL (Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemical Ltd.) Guwahati Refinery and from NRL., which is going to produce naptha later on;

(b) if so, when it will take place; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor and criteria thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The project was not found viable as the quantity of Naphtha available from Assam refineries was not considered adequate to set up economic size plant capacity.

Interviews Organised by Oil Selection Board

†3043. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil Selection Board had organised interviews for Delhi and Chandigarh on 29th, 30th and 31st March, 1996;

(b) if so, the locations of retail outlet dealership or H.K.O. or LPG distributorship, for which the interviews had been organised; and

(c) the dates on which board has been constituted and when its term ended ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.